REMARKS

Claims 14, 23, 32 and 33 have been amended. Claims 14-38 remain pending in the application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

The allowance of claims 34-37 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 14-33 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Roth. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

With respect to claims 14, 32 and 33, which have been amended, Applicant acknowledges the contention, set forth in the Office Action, bridging pages 3 and 4, that the Roth system could have the CIRC encoder 50a located prior to the buffer memory 6 (Roth, column 11, lines 1-16). According to the Office Action, the memory of the alternative Roth system, located subsequent to the encoder, could be used to memorize encoded information.

Claim 14 has been amended to recite the steps of "receiving . . . data from a host" and "storing said . . . data." According to claim 14, as amended, the receiving and storing steps occur during the pausing of the recording operation and while maintaining the encoded data. Support for the amendment to claim 14 appears, for example, in Applicant's Fig. 11, which shows that host data is stored S8 while recording is paused S7, such that the level of the stored host data can be increased. The claimed invention should not be limited, however, to the preferred embodiments described and shown in Applicant's specification and drawings.

Roth fails to disclose or suggest the above-quoted steps in combination with the steps of "storing . . . encoded data in a device," and, during pausing, "maintaining said encoded information in said device." If the Roth input buffer 6 were located subsequent to the CIRC encoder 50a, then the buffer 6 would not receive and store data during pausing of a recording operation, as recited in amended claim 14. This is an important aspect of the invention of claim 14. Consequently, claim 14, as amended, should be allowable over Roth, and dependent claims 15-31 should be allowable along with amended claim 14 and for other reasons.

Independent claim 32 has been amended, similarly to claim 14, to recite that the pausing of the recited encoder occurs during transfer of information from a host. Roth fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of the invention in combination with the other limitations of claim 32: "a buffer, coupled to said encoder, for storing the encoded information," and "a controller . . . for pausing said encoder . . . while maintaining the encoded information stored in said buffer." Consequently, the rejection of claim 32 should be withdrawn.

Claim 33 has been amended to recite that "said input buffer is arranged to receive and store data while said encoding circuit is paused . . . such that . . . encoded data is maintained in said encoding buffer while data is received and stored by said input buffer." Roth fails to disclose or suggest a recording apparatus with the recited input buffer in combination with the other aspects of claim 33, including the recited "pause circuit for pausing said encoding circuit while maintaining said encoded data in said encoding buffer." Consequently, the rejection of claim 33 should be withdrawn.

Claim 38 recites an encoding circuit that has "a CIRC encoder for generating encoded data." The claim says that the circuit "supports a pause condition which maintains [the encoded data stored in a memory]." According to claim 38, it is the pause condition supported by the encoding circuit itself which maintains the contents of the memory. An example of a pause condition supported by an encoding circuit operating to maintain encoded data in a memory 21, 22 is shown in Applicant's Fig. 4. In the Roth system, in contrast to the claimed invention, the input buffer 6 is operated by load and transfer clock signals cl2, cl3, and not by a pause condition supported by an encoding circuit. Consequently, claim 38 is believed to be allowable over Roth, and the rejection of claim 38 should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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